

REMARKS

Applicant cancels claim 2 without prejudice or disclaimer, and adds new claims 10-17.

Therefore, claims 1 and 3-17 are now pending in the application.

Applicant amends claims 1 to include the limitations of its dependent claim 2, and cancels claim 2 accordingly.

The new claims 10-17 are analogous to the original claims 1 and 3-9, respectively, but avoid the “means-plus-function” terminology.

The Examiner rejects claims 1, 2, 5, 7 and 8 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Plunkett, and rejects claims 3, 4, 6 and 9 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Plunkett in view of Koyama et al. (Koyama). Applicant respectfully traverses these rejections as follows.

According to one aspect of claim 1, reproduced sounds generated by sound generators are detected a plurality of times by repeatedly supplying a noise to the sound generators via variable gain type frequency discriminating circuits and delay circuits. The frequency characteristics of the reproduced sounds are analyzed based on multiplied values of the plurality of detection results, and the frequency characteristics of the variable gain type frequency discriminating circuits are adjusted based on the frequency characteristics obtained from the multiplied values.

Plunkett discloses a sound system where frequency of each channel (left and right) is analyzed and adjusted independently (see Id., col. 3, line 66 through col. 4, line 4). In fact, in col. 3, lines 28-35 cited by the Examiner, Plunkett discloses nothing more than that the resulted acoustic signals, which are generated by each loud speaker in response to a test signal, “are analyzed” (see Id.). Thus, contrary to the Examiner’s analysis, nowhere does Plunkett disclose

or suggest a method where frequency characteristics of the reproduced sounds are analyzed based on multiplied values of the plurality of detection results, as required by Applicant's independent claim 1.

According to claim 5, each of variable gain type frequency discriminating circuits, channel-to-channel level adjusting circuits, and delay circuits of respective signal transmission lines of an audio system are sequentially adjusted by supplying a noise signal to the transmission lines and detecting reproduced sounds generated by the sound generating means via respective signal transmission lines. Then levels of the reproduced sounds are analyzed via respective signal transmission lines.

As noted above, Plunkett discloses a sound system where frequency of each channel (left and right) is analyzed and adjusted independently (see Id., col. 3, line 66 through col. 4, line 4). Likewise, nowhere does Plunkett disclose or suggest performing its amplitude balance, or time delay balance sequentially (see Id., col. 3, lines 36 through col. 4, line 16), as recited in Applicant's independent claim 5.

Therefore, Applicant's independent claims 1 and 5, as well as the dependent claims 7 and 8 (which incorporate all the novel and unobvious features of their base claim 5), are not anticipated by Plunkett at least for these reasons.

With regard to the dependent claims 3, 4, 6 and 9, Koyama does not supply the above-noted deficiencies of Plunkett. Therefore, dependent claims 3, 4, 6 and 9 (which incorporate all the novel and unobvious features of their respective base claim 1 and 5), would not have been obvious from any reasonable combination of Plunkett and Koyama at least for these reasons set forth above with regard to claims 1 and 5.

Amendment Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
U.S. Appln No. 09/781,274

Atty Dkt No. Q62548

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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